

A BOTANICAL TRIP TO SALISBURY, CONNECTICUT.

C. H. BISSELL.

IN the summer of 1901, the writer did a little botanical collecting in the north-western corner of Connecticut, in the towns of Salisbury and North Canaan. A number of most interesting things were found and enough learned to prove that the region was worthy of a much more extended exploration.

The plants collected and the report of others to be expected led Mr. M. L. Fernald of the Gray Herbarium staff and the Hon. J. R. Churchill of Boston to plan a trip to the town of Salisbury with the writer. The evening of May 29, 1902, found them at Southington, Ct., and the next morning a start was made for Salisbury. One day and parts of two others were given to botanizing. Mr. L. Andrews was a member of the party for a portion of the first day and Judge Churchill remained for an additional day after the others were obliged to return. Mr. Fernald was the leader, and to his activity and acute observation nearly all the new and interesting discoveries should be credited. On the first day a short stroll while waiting for dinner revealed growing in moist shaded ground near the railroad two interesting forms of *Fragaria*. The more abundant of the two proved to be the true *F. vesca*, L., of Europe. The other awaits further study.

The first plant to attract attention in the afternoon was the form of our common dandelion, *Taraxacum officinale*, Weber, with short, broad, ascending, involucre bracts called var. *palustre*, Blytt. Mr. Fernald published an article in regard to this form in RHODORA, Aug., 1902. In this connection it may be of interest to note in passing, that the writer collected two weeks earlier in this same town but at a different station good specimens of the red-seeded dandelion *T. erythrospermum*, Andrz. This was growing in rich heavy soil which is not considered to be its usual habitat.

A small swamp was soon reached and new things came thick and fast. Shrubs of *Salix candida*, Willd., were in good fruit and common. The form found here had lanceolate leaves, the width about one third the length; on the next day, however, specimens were found on the border of Twin Lakes with much longer linear leaves. Some plants of the later collection showed leaves green and nearly

smooth on the lower surface instead of with the usual covering of dense tomentum.

In a shaded part of the swamp were found a few plants of *Galium tinctorium*, L., var. *labradoricum*, Wiegand. This was found two days later in greater quantity in a similar swamp in Sheffield, Massachusetts. A deep tangle of the swamp under larch trees gave specimens of the rare little *Carex tetanica*, Schk., var. *Woodii*, Bailey, the first collection of it in New England. Shrubs of *Betula pumila*, L., with young fruit were frequent while a few small ones of *Rhamnus alnifolia*, L'Her., were in flower. A ditch nearby yielded *Carex aquatilis*, Wahl., also new to the state. In a bit of wet springy pasture was growing a peculiar form of *Carex granularis*, Muhl., with short, nearly prostrate culms and the whole plant a very light green in color.

In open woods on limestone ledges some time was spent in collecting, for distribution by the Gray Herbarium, sets of *Carex eburnea*, Boott, and *Senecio obovatus*, Muhl. Fine fruiting plants of *Hepatica acutiloba*, DC., were found here, some with a part or all of the three leaf lobes again divided or incised making the leaf appear to be five- to nine- instead of three-lobed.

In a swampy part of some pine woods two or three plants of *Ranunculus abortivus*, L., var. *eucyclus*, Fernald, were found; and in the same place was seen a leaf of *Conioselinum canadense*, Torr. & Gray, a species not before noted in Connecticut. The writer, later in the season secured specimens of this from the same town but at a different station. A limestone ledge with northern exposure showed abundance of *Avena striata*, Michx., while growing beside a spring was a beautiful clump of *Carex teretiuscula*, Good., var. *ramosa*, Boott, another new form for the state. The discovery in a meadow-pasture of an interesting form of yellow-flowered *Oxalis*, which proved to be *O. filipes*, Small, closed the day's collecting.

One half day was spent exploring a swamp and fields on the border-line where Connecticut joins New York. In the swamp was growing in abundance *Carex Schweinitzii*, Dewey; and a wet meadow near by yielded *Carex rostrata*, Stokes, two more species added to the state list. In the swamp, growing in dense tufts, was a form of *Carex interior*, Bailey, with dark brown scales and fruit, giving the plant a peculiar blackish appearance. Here also were found shrubs of what appeared to be *Salix lucida*, Muhl., but with

leaves whitened instead of green beneath as they should be in this species. The most marked distinction as given in descriptions between *S. lucida*, Muhl., and the western *S. lasiandra*, Benth., is this very difference in the under surface of the leaf. It would seem from these specimens that either the distinction between the two species does not hold good or that *S. lasiandra*, Benth., may be found in this region. This is a problem needing further observation and study.

While we were crossing a sandy field near the swamp many plants of yellow-flowered *Oxalis* were noted and a careful investigation showed there were three very distinct forms. Plentiful material was taken and afterward determined by Mr. Fernald. The species proved to be *O. cymosa*, Small, *O. stricta*, L., and *O. filipes*, Small. In the field there were such differences of appearance and habit that after a little the three species could be distinguished at a glance. Our common species, *O. cymosa*, Small, was in its early stage and was less branched and more pubescent than it appears later in the season. It had simple erect stems covered with a spreading pubescence, a thick root-stock, and small flowers. *O. stricta*, L., had larger flowers, slender rootstock, ascending slender stems branching at the base, and appressed pubescence. *O. filipes*, Small, had spreading pubescence like that of *O. cymosa*, Small, but was entirely different in habit, having small spreading stems almost wiry at the base, and slender much branched running rootstocks, the plants spreading to form tufts or mats. This last species was collected the following day in the town of Sheffield, Massachusetts.

In rich ground along a fence-row a plentiful supply of *Ranunculus allegheniensis*, Britton, was secured. Crossing a moist meadow on our way to take the train for return, Judge Churchill discovered a few plants of *Carex formosa*, Dewey, and thus added another sedge to the Connecticut list. Later in the day this species was found at another station near Lakeville. In the afternoon a piece of rich woodland on a rocky hillside gave good specimens of *Carex oligocarpa*, Schk., *Avena striata*, Michx., and *Poa debilis*, Torr.; while an excursion to the foot of Sage's Ravine yielded *Streptopus amplexifolius*, DC.

The last day was mostly spent in an unavailing search for the long lost globeflower, *Trollius laxus*, Salisb. This was collected many years ago in Cornwall, Connecticut, but has never since been

seen in New England. Judge Churchill signalized his extra day's botanizing by the discovery of another grass not previously known from Connecticut, *Trisetum subspicatum*, Beauv., var. *molle*, Gray. In spite of the failure to rediscover Trollius the trip was voted a great success by all members of the party and the collections made have added many rare and northern species to the flora of Connecticut.

SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT.

FLORA OF MT. SADDLEBACK, FRANKLIN COUNTY, MAINE.

C. H. KNOWLTON.

SADDLEBACK is situated in Madrid and Sandy River Plantation. The horn and the saddle lie wholly in Madrid, while the main ridge, with three "nubbles" reaches into the next township. The highest elevation, 4450 feet, is reached at the "pinnacle," the nubble nearest the saddle. Between the second and third nubbles is a small pond of rain water.

The ridge is composed of coarse granite, evidently intruded as a core beneath overlying strata. A considerable area of this overlying rock, strongly metamorphosed and contorted, still remains at one place near the horn of the saddle; not, however, at its highest part. The granite is faulted in several places, noticeably in the saddle.

My first visit to the mountain was in company with Mr. M. L. Fernald, August 16-17, 1894, and my second the past summer, August 20-21, 1902. Mr. H. E. Dunham, now of Amesbury, Massachusetts, was a member of the party both times.

The less noteworthy, but yet typical plants of the mountain woods and bare slopes are as follows:

Oxalis Acetosella, L.

Nemophanthus fascicularis, DC.

Acer Pennsylvanicum, L.

Acer spicatum, Lam.

Pyrus Americana, DC.

Amelanchier oligocarpa, Roem.

Conioselinum Canadense, T. & G.

Kalmia glauca, Ait.

Rhododendron Rhodora, Don.

Ledum Groenlandicum, Oeder.

Alnus viridis, DC.

Empetrum nigrum, L.

¹ *Empetrum nigrum*, L., var. *Andinum*,
DC.

¹ RHODORA, iv. 147, 1906.